

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-100 (canceled)

Claim 101. (Currently amended) An isolated and purified superantigen toxin DNA fragment encoding Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) in which one amino acid located within positions 40-50, and at least one amino acid located within amino acid positions ~~at least two of the following ranges of amino acid positions of SEB have each been altered at one amino acid: the range of amino acids located at positions 40-50, the range of amino acids located at positions 18-28, the range of amino acids located at positions 55-65, the range of amino acids located at positions 62-72, the range of amino acids located at positions 84-94, the range of amino acids located at positions 86-96, the range of amino acids located at positions 89-99, the range of amino acids located at positions 110-120 and the range of amino acids located at positions 205-215, wherein the altered amino acids of SEB have~~ has been altered such that binding of said encoded SEB to the MHC class II receptor and T cell antigen receptor is altered.

Claim 102. (canceled)

Claim 103. (Previously presented) A recombinant DNA construct comprising:

- (i) a vector, and
- (ii) an isolated and purified altered superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101.

Claim 104. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell transformed with the recombinant DNA construct according to claim 103.

Claim 105. (Previously presented) A host cell according to claim 104, wherein said cell is prokaryotic.

Claim 106. (Previously presented) A method for producing altered superantigen toxin comprising culturing the cells according to claim 104, under conditions such that said DNA fragment is expressed and said superantigen toxin is thereby produced, and isolating said superantigen toxin.

Claim 107. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 18-28.

Claim 108. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 55-65.

Claim 109. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 62-72.

Claim 110. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 84-94.

Claim 111. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 86-96.

Claim 112. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 89-99.

Claim 113. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 110-120.

Claim 114. (Previously presented) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein an amino acid is altered within the range of amino acids located at positions 205-215.

Claim 115. (canceled)